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**MERYL FOR
BEST ACTRESS?**
REEL GUYS'
OSCAR PICKS

(page 21)



LONDON

metro®

Weekend, December 2-4,
2011

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News worth
sharing.



ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Turning the wheels on cycling

► Summit comes on heels of city winning
bronze award for being bicycle friendly



**ANGELA
MULLINS**
@METRONEWS.CA

By the numbers

- 9: Number of cyclist fatalities since January 2006.
- 150: Average number of bicycle-car crashes each year.

SOURCE: LONDON POLICE SERVICE

London is going for the gold.

With that catchphrase in mind, city officials and hundreds of cycling advocates spent Thursday exploring ways to make the Forest City a haven for bicycles.

Some people, like Margaret Richings, said there's a lot of work to be done. "It's better than it used to be," said Richings, an avid cyclist who sits on the transportation advisory committee. "But (rallying people behind the cause) has been difficult."

The bicycle summit at the London Convention Centre, led by the Share the Road Coalition, is an encouraging step, Richings said. But "this is just the beginning."

City officials echoed that thought, calling the summit a chance to gather ideas, hear success stories from other communities and, if you will, put rubber to the road in the transportation master plan.

Officials have been working toward building a cyclist-friendly city for more than a decade, adding bike lanes to city streets as they are reconstructed and connecting the Thames Valley Parkway with neighbourhoods and the downtown core.

In June 2010, the city started

placing shared-use road markings on streets in an attempt to make drivers more aware of riders.

Jay Stanford, director of environmental programs, said London has built a "great foundation."

"But it can always get better," he said. "We want more cyclists in this community. Lots more."

Projects slated for the near future include updating signs and maps for bike routes. New lanes are also in the works, pending budget approval, Stanford said.

Londoner Jensen Didulo hopes officials walked away from the summit with a different perspective on cycling.

"I think ... the city has remained recreational in its focus. (The goal should be) encouraging people to ride their bicycles for anything other than recreation," said Didulo, who wants to see more focus on getting people onto streets instead of trails. "You get people who are always using the road ... and motorists have to negotiate around that."

► Brandon Cassell, a manager at To Wheels, gives a bicycle a tune-up Thursday at the Dundas Street store. City officials and more than 100 cycling enthusiasts spent the day talking about ways to make the community more bicycle-friendly during a summit at the London Convention Centre.

1

news



The problem with apple juice isn't so much the arsenic, experts say, it's the sky-high caloric content. Scan the code for the story.

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Take a sneak peek at Russell Peters' holiday variety TV special. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Toys start rolling in for needy families

► Donations for Salvation Army's holiday campaign can be made at the Western Fair District or at the Centre of Hope on Wellington Street

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO



► Rick Robson, president of the London Police Association, unloads toys from a police van Thursday at the Western Fair District's Special Events Building. The toys, donated by local police officers, were some of the first donations in The Salvation Army's Christmas Hamper drive.



ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONWS.CA

You could have shot a cannon through the Western Fair District's Special Events Building on Thursday morning.

Aside from a few tables and people milling around, the warehouse-sized building was quiet and barren.

That's all about to change.

By the middle of next week, the space will be, as The Salvation Army's De-

bra Johnston puts it, "jam-packed."

Packed that is with hundreds of volunteers and, most importantly, toys.

"The whole place will be filled," said Johnston, the non-profit's community services manager. "That will continue through to the end of the (Christmas Hamper) campaign."

The annual fundraiser officially started Thursday with a big donation from the London Police Association. Hampers — filled with all the fixings for a holiday dinner and toys for kids — will be distributed

to families Dec. 12-21.

Based on last year's numbers, The Salvation Army expects to help thousands of households have a merry Christmas. If the need is greater, volunteers will find a way to meet it, Johnston said.

"If you are on a low-in-

come budget or social assistance, there's no room to do anything but pay for your basic necessities," she said. "No one will ever be turned away. Ever."

With a busy few weeks ahead, volunteers are hoping Mother Nature plays along. The hamper campaign got off to a rocky start last year when a three-day snowstorm that started Dec. 5 brought the city to a standstill.

"Our turkeys were delayed.... It was a mess," Johnston said. "We had to cancel our first day of distribution."

5,200
Number of households expected to receive help through the Christmas Hamper campaign.

Memorial planned for homicide victim

A memorial service is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday at Chalmers Presbyterian Church for a woman found dead Nov. 19 in Dartmouth, N.S.

Christina Kathleen Cline, 27, was a native of London and attended the church as a teenager. Her relatives are still members of the congregation.

Police are investigating Cline's death as a homicide. In lieu of flowers, the family is accepting donations toward a trust fund to benefit Cline's three children.

Donations can be made through the church, 342 Pond Mills Rd. ● METRO

Bilingual employment centre opens

Representatives of the City of London and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities gathered Thursday for the official opening of Collège Boréal's new Employment Options Emploi centre.

Located on the first floor of Citi Plaza, this one-stop service centre offers for free a full range of bilingual services. ● METRO

Veterans fundraiser to begin

The first town-hall meeting of the Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program will be at North London Optimist Community Centre (1345 Cheapside St.) on Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The project will construct 15 commemorative features to honour our veterans and plant 8,000 trees to enhance the environment and complement the commemorative features. The project will raise \$3.5 million in donations, \$2.5 million in in-kind services and involve more than 32,000 hours of volunteer time. ● METRO

Council right to shut out public: Mayor

METRO FILE



► Joe Fontana

The Ontario ombudsman's office launched an investigation into the city's closed-door session just before protesters were evicted from Victoria Park. After receiving a complaint from the public, the agency requested information from the private meeting, some of which falls under solicitor-client privilege.

"We're prepared to give some information to the ombudsperson, but I think he should understand that there (is some) client-solicitor privileged information that must stay inside, in camera under the purview of council," Fontana said.

The mayor also says council didn't direct the police on how to conduct

themselves.

"What we did was give direction to our parks director to enforce the bylaw, to give notice ... and we gave the director the authority to ask the police for assistance if required in order to do that. But council did not direct the police to do so and I did not direct the police to do so." AM980/AM980.CA

ROGERS REVEAL

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Robo. Deliveries



► The Business Cares Food Drive gets a high-tech launch Thursday morning as robots built by students at local high schools and the University of Western Ontario push some of the first donations through an obstacle course at Western's London Hall.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Food drive sets its goal

UWO is a big supporter of the fundraiser, which continues through Dec. 22. This year's goal is 228,001 pounds of food — one pound more than the amount collected in 2010. All donations will benefit the London Food Bank. Cash and food can be dropped off at Aboutown (17 York St.) or County Heritage (1275 Hubrey Rd.).

Balanced attack propels the London Knights

► Mark Hunter makes head-coaching debut for London on Friday ► London West MP Ed Holder paid tribute to former coach Dale Hunter in Parliament



JIM REYNO
@METRONEWS.CA

The London Knights, top-ranked team in junior hockey getting on three months now, are really rolling. Rolling as in, all four lines, all defensive pairs, all good.

Check the numbers. Not only do the Knights have the most goals in the OHL, they've got 11 of the top 20 league-leaders in plus/minus.

That's balance. That's Hunter hockey.

"That's really a testament to two people — Dale and Mark," said Knights assistant coach Misha Donskov. "If you want to play Hunter hockey and be a member of the London Knights, you've got to be tidy in your own zone."

"Dale's always preached to our guys, as well Mark going forward, that if you want to play minutes, if you want to see ice, then you have to be responsible defensively."

And the learning curve for the new Knights has been pretty well full-steam ahead. Rookie forwards Max Domi, Bo Horvat and Josh Anderson, as well as blueliner Olli Maatta, have fit right in.

"Candidly, we were pleasantly surprised with how much of an impact our young kids have had," said Donskov. "We've got great leadership from guys like Jarred Tinordi and Scotty Harrington, Jared Knight, Michael Houser, Vlady (Namestnikov), Colin Martin."

And we all know about Houser's season. The 19-



► Scott Harrington

year-old goalie is among the league leaders in goals-against average and save percentage, and has played the most minutes in the OHL.

So that's offence, defence, goaltending covered. Is that it?

There's one vital area where the Knights need work — special teams.

London is 14th out of 20 teams in the OHL on the power play, 13th in penal-

ty killing.

Donskov says both the PP and PK are works-in-progress.

"That's something that we've got to do a much better job on, and on the PK as well. That's an area, too, that is obviously critical."

Knights schedule

- The Knights host the Saginaw Spirit at the JLC on Friday at 7:30 p.m. It's their first game against Saginaw since the season-opening 8-0 win Sept. 23.
- On Saturday, the Knights visit Owen Sound for a 7:30 p.m. start against the Attack.
- This weekend is the first time since the Remembrance Day weekend the Knights don't have three games in three days.

RICHMOND ROW



LONDON STYLE

SARAH FRANCIS
METRO LONDON

When it comes to Christmas shopping I'm a bit of a last-minute type. And like loads of you, I am always shocked by how quickly the season sneaks up.

I wanted to take advantage of London's answer to Black Friday, and was eager to score some deals on stylish gifts for all of the good little elves on my list, so I hit up the 10th-annual Richmond Row Christmas Walk. While strolling the shops, I checked in with the Row's store owners, managers and sales gurus to see what Londoners are really after this Christmas.

I narrowed down the list, checked it thrice, and as the season encourages us to do, am sharing my top fashionable finds with all of you.

American Apparel

"There are a ton of guys coming in to get these cute one-size-fits-all shawls for their girlfriends." — Nickola Pandelides, sales associate. *Modal Shawl Cardigan*, \$90.

Fisher & Company

The White + Warren Cashmere slippers or a pair of Juicy Couture jammies are the ultimate in laid-back luxury. *White + Warren Cashmere Slippers*, \$225; *Juicy Couture Pajama Pants and Top*, \$80/\$65, respectively.

ACCENTS by Fisher & Company

Christmas is all about little luxuries. If I had the money (or a very generous Secret Santa), the DVF Mini Harper would be at the top of my list. *Hillberg & Berk Sparkle Ball Earrings*, \$65; *DVF Mini Harper Foldover Purse*, \$675; *UGG Ainsley Moccasin Slippers*, \$150; *O'clock interchangeable watch bands & faces*, \$50.

Lolita

"Everyone's going crazy for sequins and feathers this year." — Stephanie Knowles, sales associate. *Pink Violet sequined mini dress*, \$175; *Headmistress*

Feathered Head Dress, \$65.

Archie's

"Every guy would love a bright Nixon watch under the tree." — Samantha Merkl, manager. *Plastic Watches*, \$80.

"Glittery TOMS are perfect with this season's party dresses." — Mallory Rickard, manager & buyer. *Silver Glitter TOMS Shoes*, \$69.99.

Leslie's

Wellies have become a staple for It-girls all over. I'm loving the new *Nomad-printed rubber cowboy boots from L.A. Original Hunter Wellies*, \$150 with cable or grizzly cuffs, \$50; *Nomad Mid-Calf Rubber Boots*, \$85.

Saffron Road

These three finds are at the top of my dream wish list, fulfilling all of my girly fancies. *Carolina Silver-Plated Beaded Bracelet*, \$300; *House of Harlow Leopard Minaudier*, \$225; *Autumn Cashmere Tripod Scarf*, \$185.

LifeStyles Women's Wear

"People come in and are immediately drawn to the sparkle and shine of our Shelley jewellery." — Jan Wilson, manager. *Shelley Necklaces*, \$18-\$48.

iN Fashion

"The handmade charm lariats from Lady J. Republic make the perfect gift because they're all so unique." — Lily Eugenio, iN Fashion. *Lady J. Republic Lariats*, \$75.

Linea Intima

"The Hanky Panky is made from comfy stretch lace and comes in every imaginable colour." — Niki Laithwaite, assistant manager. *Hanky Panky Panties*, \$22 each.

Lash Envy

A private makeup lesson is the best investment you can make in your appearance, and something people wouldn't normally think to get for themselves. *Tips & Tricks Private Makeup Lesson from Lash Envy*, \$60.

Sarah Francis is the style maven behind *realliferunway.com*. She also reports on the latest trends for *White Oaks Mall* and *iVillage.ca*.



Santa Claus is coming to CIBC

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For what matters.

Crime? It doesn't panic us

► StatsCan study finds Canadians feel safe ► Westerners more wary

Statistics Canada says the vast majority of Canadians feel they're safe from crime.

The agency has released a study of Canadians aged 15 and older that says 93 per cent of those surveyed said they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime.

The 2009 study produced results similar to those of the last survey done in 2004 — before the Conservatives took power and began their tough-on-crime campaign.

Crime rates overall have been falling for a decade.

Youth crime is one of the few areas that has risen, yet the study says slightly more younger Canadians were satisfied with their personal safety

Safety zones

► The study indicates those living in Eastern Canada, where crime rates are generally lower, were more satisfied with their personal safety than Westerners, who form the base of Tory support.

from crime than older Canadians — 94 per cent of those aged 15-24 compared to 90 per cent aged 65 years and older.

About 83 per cent of respondents said they were not worried when home alone at night, while 90 per cent who walked alone in their neighbourhoods at night said they felt safe doing so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aid for AIDS. It's going swimmingly



► Dalhousie students Leanna Winberg — yes, that's her on the left — and Alex McPhedran fight the chills with a joke after their polar bear swim at Chocolate Lake in Halifax on Thursday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

How to grin and polar-bear it

Several students from Dalhousie University left their winter woolies behind on Thursday — for a polar bear swim. It was all for a good cause. They plunged into some chilly water to mark World AIDS Day and to publicize the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Dare campaign, which aims to raise money and awareness for AIDS research and prevention in Africa.

Sex for young adults: It's a jungle out there

Modern life is complicated, and the sexual landscape for young adults is no exception.

That's the discovery of researchers at the University of Ottawa.

Friends with benefits, booty calls, hookups and one-night stands — these are just a few of the arrangements outlined in a new study exploring the sexual landscape among

Canadians within the 18-24 age group.

And it found each relationship has specific ground rules when it comes to behaviour, communication, monogamy and secrecy.

The study, released Thursday, was published in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality.

"When we talk about casual sex, people use it

Not too 'casual'

► The research for the University of Ottawa study was based on a focus group of extensive interviews with 23 young adults, including sex educators.

as a blanket term to cover everything," said lead author Jocelyn Wentland, a

► Lead author Jocelyn Wentland says the term "casual sex" oversimplifies the range of relationships going on today.

► Understanding the distinctions is important for the men and women participating in them.

PhD student in experimental psychology.

"But as this research

shows, there's a lot going on in between."

And much of it is nothing like the one-night stand of the past, where people had a sexual encounter and never saw each other again, she added.

Friends with benefits, for example, refers to sex within the context of an ongoing friendship.

"Booty calls," she ex-

plained are for the sole purpose of sexual activity.

Friends have more at stake, so the terms and conditions, as well as the emotional terrain, are different.

Earlier studies have shown one-third to two-thirds of college and university students have engaged in the two types of relationships.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MacKay's flight has Commons in a flap

Opposition MPs are accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of misleading the Commons over his use of a military helicopter to fly him out of a Newfoundland fishing lodge.

New reports indicate the pickup was orchestrated specifically to extract the minister from his fishing trip, "under the guise" of a training exercise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mighty Mo's raise \$36M

Movember, the global charity that encourages growing a moustache to raise funds for prostate cancer, says 246,060 Canadians — including MP Justin Trudeau — raised \$36.6 million this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Trudeau's Mo

Ecstasy helped kill teen, police suspect

Police suspect an ecstasy-pill overdose contributed to the death of teenager following a weekend party in Calgary.

The 16-year-old boy and eight other teens were tak-

en to hospital Saturday afternoon after suffering an adverse reaction to the drug.

The other teens were treated and released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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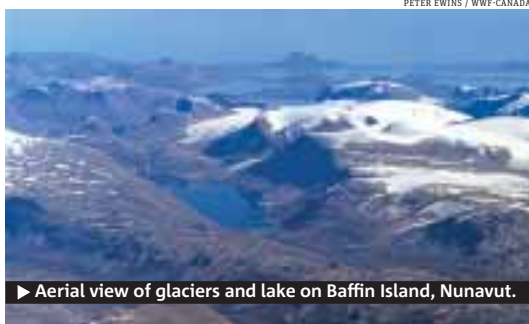
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► A northern landscape.



DAVID JENKINS / WWF-CANADA



PETER EWINS / WWF-CANADA

► Aerial view of glaciers and lake on Baffin Island, Nunavut.

THINGS HEATING UP

► Scientist not worried about development but says we're not very good at planning smartly



ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A new report issued Wednesday states Canada's Arctic is shifting to a new permanent state — one that is warmer, has less summer sea ice and a changed ocean chemistry.

The Arctic Report Card, prepared by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office (NOAA), tracks the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, biology, ocean, land and Greenland. This year, new sections were added, including greenhouse gases, ozone and UV radiation, ocean acidification and lake ice.

Pete Ewins, director of species conservation at



"There isn't a lot of will from our political leaders to change. Our grandchildren are going to say, 'Why didn't they make the change towards renewable energy sooner?'"

PETE EWINS, WWF SCIENTIST

World Wildlife Fund Canada, said the report helps show the continuing trend of extremes that Canada's Arctic is facing.

"You don't take one year

and use that as a basis (for not changing behaviour)," said Ewins. "It's all about rates of change, and what the (annual report card) shows us is a very scientific basis that shows the rates of change are speeding towards greater uncertainty and greater risks."

"With a greener and warmer Arctic, more development (in Northern Canada) is likely," said Monica Medina, NOAA principal deputy undersecretary. "Reports like this one help us to prepare for increasing demands on Arctic resources."

Ewins said that he isn't worried about the potential for developing Canada's Arctic, only that it's done smartly.

The report can be viewed online at noaa.gov.



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IN CANADA'S ARCTIC REGION



PAUL NICKLEN/WWF-CANADA

Polar bears in danger, whales to benefit

Canada's Arctic will see significant changes as temperatures continue to rise.

The summer sea ice will continue to shrink, and according to the report, the minimum Arctic sea-ice area recorded in September of 2011 was the second-lowest since 1979.

The Arctic will also get greener. The report states Arctic-tundra vegetation continues to increase and is associated with higher air temperatures over most of Canada's Arctic land mass.

The warming of the Arctic threatens polar bear and walrus populations, but also opens feeding areas for

1.5 C Average annual near-surface air temperatures over the Arctic Ocean were 1.5 C greater in 2011 than over the past 30 years.

whales.

The retreating ice means the ocean can absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The report states the acidification of the ocean currently appears to be stable. ● ELISHA DACEY



Watch NOAA's video report at metronews.ca.

► A polar bear and her cub rest on an iceberg in the Arctic Ocean.



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SHOPPERS
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Brother! What a triumph

► Partial results show the hustling Brotherhood surging in Egypt's poll

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood is emerging as the biggest winner in Egypt's first parliamentary election since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.

Voters have turned out in unexpected droves.

First-time voter Hassan Abdel-Hamid was undecided — until he got a flyer telling him how to vote from “the guys with the computer.”

Outside polling stations, Brotherhood activists were set up with laptop computers, helping voters find their voter numbers.

They posted activists to wave banners, pass out flyers or simply chat up voters waiting in line.

And in a marked change from previous elections, when Brotherhood members touted Islamic creden-

“They outspent, outworked and politically outclassed the other political parties by a huge factor.”

ELIJAH ZARWAN,
POLITICAL ANALYST

tials, this time they focused on improved services, to appeal to poor voters.

For decades, the Mubarak regime suppressed the Muslim Brotherhood. But it has transformed itself into a potent campaign machine, holding rallies and wall-papering neighbourhoods with banners.

Final election results are expected Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► A statue of legendary singer Umm Kulthum wears an eyepatch — symbolizing protesters wounded in clashes with security forces in Cairo's Tahrir Square on Thursday.

STATUE UNEARTHED

After 3,400 years, king lives on

Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a large statue of king Amenhotep III who ruled nearly 3,400 years ago.

Amenhotep III was the grandfather of the famed boy-pharaoh Tutankhamun.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities said the

latest find was made at the king's funerary temple in the southern city of Luxor.

Thursday's statement said the 13.5-metre-tall statue is made of coloured quartzite.

It is composed of several large pieces that once put together will depict the king as standing.

Amenhotep III ruled from 1390-1352 B.C.

The latest find comes after several other relics of the king were unearthed last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants warned: Don't fall for 'official' scams

Immigration scams are getting so sophisticated that fraudsters now advertise online with websites that perfectly mimic those of official government agencies, U.S. officials say.

On Thursday they rolled out a nationwide

awareness campaign.

It's aimed at educating legal and illegal immigrants to avoid everything from unlicensed service providers to phoney websites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Construction worker in Beijing.

China facing slowdown

ECONOMY. China's leaders are reversing their two-year effort to cool the economy, seeking to counter slowdowns in manufacturing and property that are dragging growth lower and threatening to spur unrest.

In the latest sign the world's No. 2 economy is weakening faster than thought, business surveys released Thursday showed manufacturing contracted in November for the first time in nearly three years.

That news came a day after Beijing moved to invigorate business activity by easing credit curbs, ending a long campaign to take some fizz out of the rapidly expanding economy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exports support economy

RESOURCES. The surprisingly strong domestic product expansion in the third quarter is hiding an unpleasant fact about Canada's economy, say analysts.

Strip away exports — particularly oil, gas and coal — from the data, and Canada's economy doesn't look like the world-beater it appears.

In fact, say analysts, Canada's domestic economy can be seen as already mired in a technical recession with consumers going into hibernation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

India braces for retail revolution

► Arrival of Western big-box stores like Walmart would mean huge change for country's shoppers

Ashok Kokane sits amid his strawberries at Mumbai's Crawford Market, a handwritten ledger across his knees and a fan of dirty 10 rupee notes at his hand. The lazy, dust-encrusted ceiling fans above are far past cleaning.

It is a tableau many fear will disappear after the government decided last week to give foreign big-box retailers like Walmart greater access to India's huge market.

The arrival of modern retailing would hasten a cultural transformation in the way Indians shop and work. The debate now raging — which has shut down Parliament and prompted a strike by shop-

keepers Thursday — hinges on competing visions of what foreign retailers will mean to agriculture and retail, India's two largest sources of jobs.

The government argues organized retail will make food cheaper, liberate millions from medieval working conditions and put more money into the hands of desperate farmers. Others say it will deepen the inequities of Indian society and wipe out a merchant class whose values and skills have been passed from father to son for generations.

The existing retail landscape is an intricate tangle of shops and bazaars, forged by ideas that date to

India's earliest religious texts. But, even without Walmart, small, family-run shops are already under threat. With the fraying of caste ties, which often determine a family's profession, and the growing dreams of India's youth for better paid, more prestigious jobs, retailers are finding it hard to keep the next generation in the family business.

"You have different sets of people who, because of the caste system, have been involved in the same business for many generations," said Arvind Singhal, founder of Technopak Advisors, a New Delhi based consulting company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Workers in New Delhi protest Thurs

ENTERTAINING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

NOW THAT THE COUNTDOWN TO THE FESTIVE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY ON, IT'S TIME TO START MAKING YOUR PARTY-PLANNING LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Here are some tips for stress-free holiday entertaining:

SEND INVITATIONS EARLY

There are lots of parties in December, so send your invitations a few weeks before the date so people can fit it into their schedule.

SET A GAME TIME

In the invitation, state a time parameter. Don't say: "Come by anytime after 7 p.m." if you don't want guests to linger past midnight. Instead, be spe-

cific: "Join us for wine and cheese from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m."

PLAN YOUR PANTRY

Try to always have a few culinary staples on hand in case people drop in unexpectedly. These can include antipasto, crudités, hummus and other dips, gourmet crackers, a choice of cheeses, savoury jam and a variety of cookies.

BUILD A COCKTAIL BAR

Early in December, buy a collection of spirits such as vodka, gin and white and dark rum so you'll have basic cocktail ingredients at the ready before party time.

DECIDE ON DECOR

In the days leading up to the party, try different holiday decor themes and colours until you find your favourite. You don't have to stick to traditional green, red, silver and gold; any colour combination goes as long as it's consistent.

HOLIDAY CHEER

HOLIDAY SEABREEZE

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz grapefruit juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your rock glass with cubed ice and pour in the cranberry juice. Shake the Smirnoff® and grapefruit juice together, then strain and float on top of the cranberry. Add the lime wedge and enjoy.



LONG COSMO

1 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
0.5 oz TripleSec
3 oz cranberry juice
2 lime wedges

Fill your martini shaker with ice and pour in all ingredients. Mix, then strain. Squeeze in the lime wedges, stir and enjoy.



MADRAS

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz orange juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your highball glass with cubed ice and pour in the Smirnoff® and the cranberry and orange juices. Stir together. Add your lime wedge and enjoy.





GURINDER OSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

day against plans by the Indian government to allow more access for foreign retailers.

We're not collecting your data: Cell providers

Canada's largest mobile-phone service providers say they are not receiving any data from the controversial software company Carrier IQ. Bell, Rogers and Telus say they do not have contracts with the Mountain View, Ca.-based company, which sells the program Mobile Intelligence.

Security researcher Trevor Eckhart claimed the software could log user information and behaviours and send data to mobile carriers. Carrier IQ has denied the claims and says its software is designed to provide "intelligence on the performance of mobile devices and networks."

"We are counting and summarizing performance, not recording keystrokes or providing tracking tools," the company says in a statement on its website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Draft bill targets cellphone 'gouging'

CONTRIBUTED

Draft measures to reduce sticker shock when Ontario consumers open their cellphone bills passed a crucial vote in the legislature Thursday, but still face significant hurdles before they could become law.

The private member's bill would make the cost of using a cellphone more transparent, and clarify contracts so that customers know what they're paying for.

The bill easily passed second reading Thursday, but the minority Liberal government still controls which legislation is called for third and final reading and there's no indication it will allow the bill to reach that stage.

The bill marks the second attempt by Liberal member David Oraziotti to protect consumers from what he says are high fees and confusing contracts.



► David Oraziotti

"This is a huge consumer issue," he said.

"The price gouging that is taking place in this sector because of the lack of competition is absolutely horrendous."

Oraziotti's bill would reduce cancellation fees, force companies to warn users when they're outside their local areas so they won't be surprised by roaming charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Consumer report

Canadians slowing their borrowing habits: Report

There are signs that Canadian consumers have slowed down their borrowing this year, after peaking in the fourth quarter of 2010.

A TransUnion analysis released Thursday found that average consumer debt, excluding mortgages, was \$25,594 in the third quarter.

That's about where it has been throughout 2011, although up slightly from where it was in the third quarter of 2010.

That means Canadians are increasingly reluctant to add to their lines of credit, consumer and car loans and credit card debt as they face an uncertain economy that's

eroding their confidence.

On the mortgage side, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp. said earlier this week that the growth of mortgage loans has slowed down to an average of just under \$160,000.

That reflects tougher lending rules imposed by Ottawa and a slowing economy, which has put downward pressure on house prices.

The agency also noted that mortgage insurance bought by homeowners facing high-ratio debts fell by about 10 per cent.

TransUnion is a firm that tracks consumer borrowing through credit cards, lines of credit and auto financing.

In its report Thursday, the financial analysis company said the third-quarter debt total is still about 1.7 per cent higher than in the same 2010 period but notes the pace of increases has slowed as the year has progressed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

eBay eyes holiday shoppers

► Popular online retail and auctions site touts QR shopping at temporary pop-up shop in London's trendy Soho district, just in time for Christmas

Purchase power

- 10% of eBay's sales revenue is from mobile commerce.
- 60% of items are brand-new and sold through the Buy It Now system.
- eBay has also collaborated with major stores in both New York and San Francisco.

The news that eBay has set up shop seems like a bizarre, counter-intuitive business strategy. However, the pop-up store located on Dean Street in London's trendy Soho is eBay's first foray into multi-channel shopping, following the likes of Internet giants Amazon, who have tried something similar.

Of course, given that it's only open for five days — from December 1 through 5 — this is basically a perfectly timed publicity stunt, during the busiest period for Christmas shopping. Skepticism aside, the boutique does give less tech-savvy shoppers the opportunity to understand how QR shopping works. In layman terms, shoppers scan the QR barcode with their smartphone, which then takes them through to the eBay site, where pur-

chases are processed. It's that simple. Staff are on hand to help any technophobes out there.

What sets it apart from a traditional store is that one cannot physically purchase anything and there are no ringing tills — nor long lineups.

eBay spokesperson Antonia Pearson says, "It's great to have a physical manifestation of eBay to showcase our products and make



► eBay's new pop-up store in London.

people aware that we do sell brand-new packaged gifts — it's not all about bidding." ● METRO

Angry Birds go nuts for product placement

The Angry Birds have gone nuts. They have also sold out to the Man.

The world's most popular video game app had its first taste of the lucrative world of advertising in September, with a 15-second spot featuring Wonderful Pistachios.

In the ad, a red bird uses a slingshot to turn a green pig into a flying nutcracker.

Now there's an Angry Birds game that takes product placement to new heights.

The Hunt for the Golden Pistachio is about cracking nutshells for profit, besides chasing egg-stealing pigs.

A spokesperson for Finland's Rovio, the creator of Angry Birds, told Mashable.com that this is the first game conceived from



► An image of the popular video game Angry Birds is displayed on an iPod Touch.

inception with the advertiser in mind.

Available at Golden Pistachios' getcracking.com website, Thursday's launch of the new game, optimized for Google's Chrome Internet browser, encouraged downloads with offers of cash and other prizes.

Angry Birds marked 500 million downloads last month. According to

Rovio, users rack up 300 million minutes of play time around the world every day.

The Angry Birds franchise has been growing exponentially, with a recently-released cookbook, an anticipated Hollywood movie release of Angry Birds Rio early in 2012, and a planned television series.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Starbucks opens drive-thrus in U.K.

Starbucks is hitting the road in Britain.

The Seattle-based coffee chain said Thursday that it is planning to open 200 more drive-thru stores in the United Kingdom over the next five years, plus 100 walk-in ones.

The company opened its first U.K. drive-thru in 2008 in Cardiff in Wales, and currently has nine.

In the United States, it has 2,500 drive-thru stores.

Half of the new U.K. drive-thru units will be opened in partnership with Euro Garages, a company based in northern England which operates service stations.

Starbucks says it expects to hire 5,000 people at the new stores.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP sells natural-gas unit to U.S. company

BP is selling its Canadian natural-gas liquids business for nearly \$1.7 billion US but remains a major player in the Canadian oilpatch with interests in oilsands and significant other exploration businesses.

The buyer of the liquids business is Plains Midstream Canada, a subsidiary of Plains All American Pipeline, a U.S. company based in Texas.

The purchase price is \$1.67 billion US, the British-owned energy gi-

ant said early Thursday.

The acquisition by Plains is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close by next spring.

The business being sold is involved in extracting, processing and wholesaling natural gas liquids across Canada and in the midwestern United States.

It owns or has rights to 4,000 kilometres of pipeline systems and storage capacity of 21 million barrels.

"BP's Canadian NGL

business is an asset-rich platform that significantly expands our (liquefied petroleum gas) asset footprint, providing a supply-based complement to our existing demand-focused business and making Plains one of the largest LPG service providers in North America," said Greg Armstrong, chairman and CEO of Plains All American.

"We expect to be able to generate meaningful operating and commercial synergies by more fully

connecting, integrating and utilizing these assets together with our existing North American LPG assets and our Canadian crude oil assets and activities."

The liquids business is attractive to many energy companies because natural-gas liquids — like propane, butane and ethane — tend to track oil prices more closely than natural-gas prices, which have been anything but robust lately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurry in and get the vehicle and offer you've been thinking about. Only at your Ontario Ford Store.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL, OR NOT ...

THE METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM
METRO



1 Fan-tastic: After a long game of "chicken," the NBA finally carved out a deal that barely anyone understands. My thoughts:

You're a muscular six-foot-nine man making over \$5 million for putting a ball in a 10-foot hoop. Please, just put on your free socks and sneakers, do your job, and maybe one day, you too can marry a Kardashians. Thanks.

2 Costly Cancon: Our beloved national broadcaster faces criticism once again. The Federal Court of Appeal ruled in favour of budget transparency, but CBC prez Hubert Lacroix still wants his annual \$1.1-billion government subsidy. Lacroix says the money is necessary to maintain vital Canadian content like Hockey Night in Canada, local news and election night coverage. I say, "How much for just the hockey?"

3 Free health care?: A recent news story about exorbitant hospital parking fees quoted the Canada Health Act, which states that "Canadians should have access to health care without financial or other barriers." A moderate example is North York General Hospital in Toronto, where a day pass costs \$23. It is not unusual for patients with complicated illnesses to be there for a month, which is \$700. Then again, drug shortages, disgruntled personnel, and sub-par food ensure that they probably won't last that long anyway.

4 High anxiety: A study out of Cardiff University in Wales found that children with a high IQ at age 5-10 were more likely to experiment with drugs as adults. Dr. James White speculates that smarter people are simply more open to new experiences. My theory is that drug addicts in their 30s are more likely to lie about having a high IQ as a child.

5 Pop history: If you are turning 30 this week, the No. 1 song when you were born, which you were likely exposed to while in the womb, was Let's Get Physical by Olivia Newton-John. I just thought that might shed some light in therapy.

6 Great ones: Wayne Gretzky supposedly demanded 22-year-old daughter Paulina shut down her Twitter account because he found her photos to be distasteful. Even Gretzky admits to having looked at risqué photos of hot women before but maintains that none of them was anyone's daughter.

7 True story: On this day in 1969, Cindy Birdsong of the Supremes was kidnapped at knifepoint by a maintenance man in her building. She later escaped unharmed by jumping out of his moving car on the San Diego freeway. Wow! And people thought Diana Ross was special.

8 Extreme couponing: I suffer from "chronic buyer's remorse" as a result of family members who are always giddy with tales of their web-found bargains. I ignore emails from "deal" sites because I fail to see the use in an automatic toilet flusher, but someone informed me of a site that aggregates and sends you just one email containing only items you actually want. It's called Dealpart.com. Kudos to them for a name that pretty much sums it up.

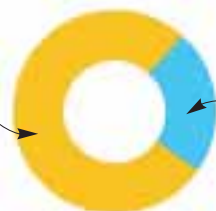
More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat



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Would you pay the equivalent of an iPad to save a polar bear?

77%
YES, THEY'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS AN IPAD'S LED-BACKLIT SCREEN



23%
NO, I'D RATHER JUST BUY AN IPAD

Local tweets



► **@ChrisBaker41:** Just finished watching STA's

production of Camp Rock: The Musical. Surprisingly well done for a high school show. #ldnont

► **@samreiss_:** #cflwifes premiere: Kerwin Bell's wife Hava wants to flip a house in Timmins. But Sandy Kiselak has other ideas. Guest spot by Nan Flutie

► **@chadder87:** Word today that #occupyldnont cost #ldnont 80,000 dollars + in services. Hmm, what could we have used that \$\$ for? #wasteofmoney

► **@TammyLeeMarche:** #LdnOnt elected members response to Occupy London is costing us grossly. I highly recommend they change their approach ASAP #wasteful

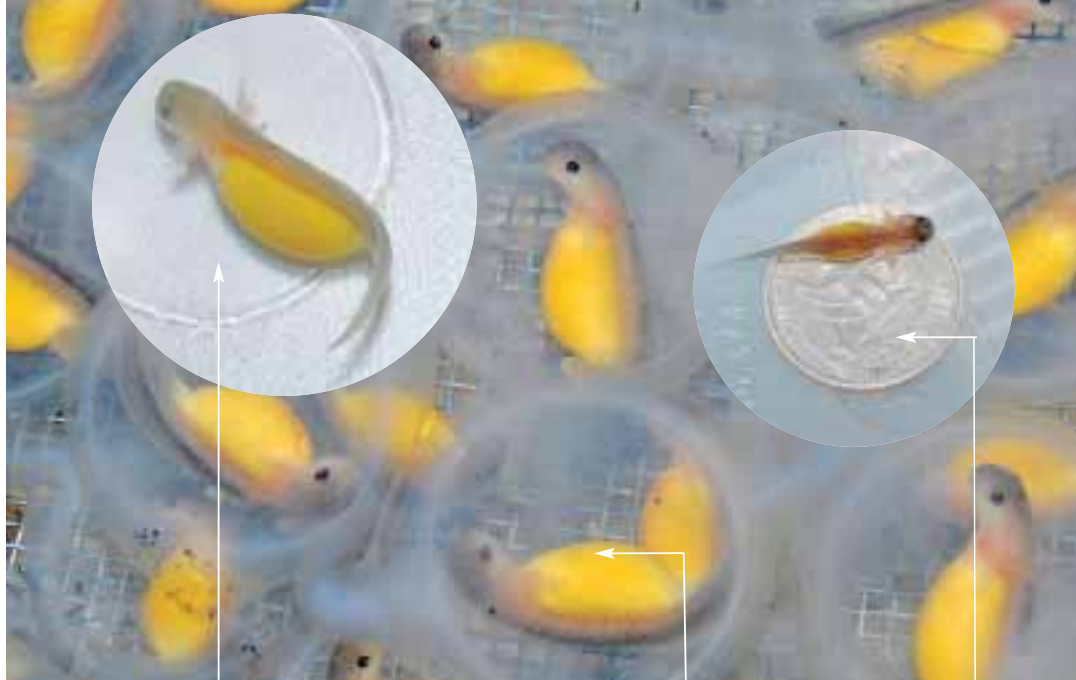
► **@melanielaing:** Roommate pic with Santa in ugly christmas sweaters in only one hour! Haha can't wait! #uwu

► **@ginauppal:** Lucys at Somerville House is the hidden gem of #uwu - good music, friendly tims lady and copious free seating

► **@thedereksutton:** Oh and also, where did semester 1 go? #fanshawe #livingthatgoodlife

Daily Zoom

Raise a little hell



Endangered

In this photo provided by the St. Louis Zoo, an Ozark hellbender is shown developing in an egg.

► The rare Ozark hellbender, an endangered amphibian found only in a few Missouri and Arkansas counties, has been success-

fully bred in captivity for the first time, offering new hope for the animal's survival, scientists said.

► For 45 to 60 days after hatching, the tiny larvae will retain their yolk sack for nutrients and move very little. They eventually lose their external gills by the time they reach 1.5 to two years of age.

Hellbender not the worst moniker

Ozark hellbenders shown just after hatching. Also known by the colloquial names of "snot otter" and "old lasagna sides," hellbenders can grow to be two feet at five to eight years of age, the zoo said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

600

An Ozark hellbender at two weeks old. The zoo says rivers in south-central Missouri and northern Arkansas once supported up to 8,000 hellbenders. Today fewer than 600 exist in the world.

Do you hear what I hear?

► You will if you receive one of these gift ideas for the audiophile in your life ► MP3's, headphones, gadgets



MIKE
YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Whether you are listening to tunes in the comfort of your home or on public transit through headphones, music can help anyone get into the holiday spirit.

Here are a few gift ideas for the audiophile in your life.

Apple iPod Touch — starting at \$199

Apple continues to dominate the MP3 player market. Year after year the iPod Touch is the best-selling MP3 player. There is a reason for that. The device is well-designed with a large touchscreen, which not only plays music but hundreds of thousands of apps

From top: Apple iPod Touch, starting at \$199, SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip, middle, starting at \$49.99, and Pioneer X-SMC3, right, \$369.99.

and games. It's like an iPhone ... minus the phone!

Sony A Series Walkman — \$199

A 2.8-inch touchscreen is your window to the world of music. Not sure of the lyrics to your favourite song? The A series Walkman lets you upload lyric files that will display in sync with the music. You can also play video files, display photos, listen to FM radio and record personal notes.

SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip — starting at \$49.99

A simple MP3 player loaded with features. The Sansa Clip Zip gets its name from the clip on the back, which makes it easy to attach to your workout

clothes at the gym. On the front, you will find a colour display so you always know what song is playing. It also has very simple controls to guide you through the menus. Not only can you play music but the Sansa Clip Zip also has a built-in FM radio, support for audiobooks and podcasts, a voice recorder and a stopwatch. Great price for such a feature-laden device.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre — \$329

Two big names come together in one set of on-ear headphones. Monster (known for high-end audio/video cables) and Dr. Dre have teamed up to bring these high-definition headphones to market. Known for their superior sound quality, these Beats headphones have a unique trifold design to ensure they fold for easy storage when not in use. They also feature Cloudtalk technology for hands-free calling!

iHome iD85, \$139.99, and SkunkJuice Earbuds, \$35.99, below right.



SkunkJuice Earbuds — \$35.99

Funny name but a great idea! These earbuds are designed for sharing music.

Patented magnetic connection technology allows up to four sets of SkunkJuice earbuds to connect together into a single audio input on an MP3 player. No more sharing earbuds! The perfect gift for teens.

Pioneer X-SMC3 — \$369.99

Why keep the music bottled up! Spread some sound around your home. The Pioneer X-SMC3 will do just that. This high-end music system sounds amazing, pumping out some decent bass. Wirelessly stream music from your iOS device via Airplay, or connect your favourite MP3 player with a cable. Since the system is connected to your home network you can

listen to thousands of Internet radio stations. You can also stream music via Bluetooth with an optional adapter.

iHome iD85 — \$139.99

It's always easier to wake up to the sound of music. Dock your iPhone, iPod or iPad to the iD85 and let it recharge overnight. The dock features dual alarms so two people can rely on the device for their wakeup call. And for all you lazybones out there, you can automatically sync the clock with the time on your iPhone, iPod or iPad.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre, \$329, top left, and Sony A Series Walkman, \$199, above.

HOLIDAY 2011

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gift guide

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No need for a Silent Night

► With these choices for the musical enthusiast on your gift list ► From Lady Gaga to Alvin And The Chipmunks



KEITH
CORMAN
FOR METRO

Rounding up a year's worth of extraordinary music is never an easy undertaking. With seemingly as many genres sprouting up as there are grains of sand in the Sahara, something is surely to be missed.

Tougher still? Picking out one of those gems for the music enthusiast on our gift

list. Paring down the style only seems to open up a Pandora's box of who's who, who's hot and who's not.

In an effort to provide clarity, simplicity and a de-

fibrillator to your ego, try a few of these tested, respected and occasionally obvious albums from the past few months or slated to be released just prior to the holidays.

Pop freaks know how much of a marvel Lady Gaga's *Born This Way* (Interscope) was upon its release earlier this year. For those who might already own it, however, check out *Born This Way: The Remix*, an unsuited re-imagining of that explosive affair.

On a more soulful level, anticipation for chanteuse Rhianna's sixth work *Talk That Talk* (Def Jam) has been stirring heavily

alongside the likes of Mary J. Blige's 10th full-length *My Life II — The Journey Continues (Act 1)* (Geffen), both to be issued in standard and deluxe editions. For traditionalists, well, they may be getting long in the tooth, but as latest venture *Hot Sauce Committee Part Two* (Capitol) asserts, New York hip-hop heroes *The Beastie Boys* still hold their own.

If spirited lighter fare is of the essence, try *The 30th Annual John Lennon Tribute, Live From The Beacon Theatre, NYC* (Theatre Within), a gala featuring the likes of Patti Smith, Jackson Browne, Taj Ma-



❄ Foo Fighters' *Wasting Light* would make a great gift for the rock fan on your list.

hal, Aimee Mann, Shelby Lynne, Martin Sexton, Bettye LaVette, Joan Osborne, Keb' Mo' and more celebrating the life of a rock legend via his songs.

Not to be outdone, folk-infused poetic punk Frank Turner's *England Keep My Bones* (Epitaph) is easily one of



the most rousing and passionate yet down-to-earth albums you probably haven't heard this year. Woody Guthrie would be proud. Similarly, on *The King Is Dead* (Rough Trade), folk lovers *The Decemberists* are surprising-

ly smooth.

Rock fan in the crew? One could do far worse than to grab them a copy of *Foo Fighters' Wasting Light* (Roswell), their seventh album overall and most comprehensive in years. For something less aggressive, Arctic Monkeys' *Suck It And See* (Domino) has been heralded as a champion affair.

For the classical fanatic, Naxos Of Canada is set to release a bevy of box sets featuring everything from jazz and instrumentals to operas and ballets. Formats range from separate collections to complete editions of Beethoven, Verdi, Rachmaninoff, Chopin and more.

If metal is the name of the game, as has become standard fare over their quarter-century (and then some) rivalry, heavy stalwarts Megadeth and Metallica have both issued fresh material just in time. Sating diehard fans of brain-bashing drums and buzz saw guitar riffs, the former's *Th1rt3en* (Roadrunner) runs exactly as planned. Reaching into more esoteric territory, Metallica opt to work with oddball rocker Lou Reed on elongated affair *Lulu* (Warner/Vertigo).

Finally, just because they are still kicking after so many decades, to thrill the young audiophile — or torment their parents — consider *Alvin And The Chipmunks' Chipwrecked: Music From The Motion Picture* featuring those iconic hyperactive rodents at their most ... well, whatever it is that rodents are.



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Tire, canadiantire.ca.



HomeSense Newsprint
Plush Toys, \$14.99-
\$16.99, available at
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homesense.ca.



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\$11.95, available
at La Vie En Rose,
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Reindeer Rattle,
\$12, available
at available
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chapters.indigo.ca.



Endless Hearts Teddy, \$23,
left, and **Erik in Nordic**
Sweater from Happy Feet
Two, \$39.99. For Canadian
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Treasures for your favourite cook



**EMILY
RICHARDS**
FOR METRO

All I want for Christmas is lots of goodies for my kitchen! OK, maybe not all for me, but certainly to give as gifts to friends. I often get asked what should I

have in my kitchen? Well, here are some great tools for the kitchen that are not only great to give but perfect to receive.

So if you haven't started your list yet, I suggest you add a few, if not all, of these great ideas.

You can pick and choose or create a "basket" to give this holiday season that is themed for the kitchen. With a little thought and some strong shopping you will receive or give the best kitchen gifts this season.

Kitchen tools to give and receive

This selection can make a lot of people happy, so buy one or buy them all. Truly useful to make cooking a delight! Chef's knife, silicone spatula, Microplane zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons and dry measuring cups, and tongs.

For the cheese lover

Look for a small or large brie baker and spreader for a simple straightforward gift and perhaps include a brie for a get-together. For other cheeses be sure to include a small cheese board and cheese knife set.

For the baker

Let your imagination grab you! Pick up a bowl and fill it with useful kitchen tools like a rolling pin, cookie cutters, dry measuring cups, measuring spoons, zester/grater and silicone spatula.



✳ Buy one or buy all these for the food lover on your gift list. Kitchen tools include a chef's knife, silicone spatula, zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons, dry measuring cups and tongs.

True essentials

There are a few simple tools you shouldn't be without to make cooking enjoyable and fun. A chef's knife will help you chop and dice your way through incredible recipes, the cutting board will protect

your knife and your counters, dry measuring cups and spoons will make sure you have the right amounts you need and good salt will help it all be seasoned to perfection.

Bigger items for kitchen gadget lovers

This is where you can look at small appliances with eyes wide open and have some fun.

If you enjoy waffles from restaurants you can recreate the tasty morning dish by making your own at home with a waffle maker.

Or for movie buffs, check out a lively popcorn maker that will get your guests watching the popcorn and not the movie. And for pizza lovers, be sure to sneak in a colourful nonstick pizza stone to keep pizza warm right at the table, too

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Synopsis

So many movies were released last weekend for American Thanksgiving that it seems like there weren't any left for this week. With only limited new films in theatres, the Reel Guys take a look at what's at the multiplex already that could take home Oscar gold.



► Could Meryl Streep take home another Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher?

Reel Guys

**RICHARD
CROUSE &
MARK
BRESLIN**

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Go ask Oscar

► Meryl or Michelle, George or Ryan? ► The Reel Guys make their predictions

Richard: Mark, for me right now, the frontrunner for Best Actress is Michelle Williams. Her take on Marilyn Monroe in *My Week with Marilyn* is so eerily accurate it transcends mimicry. She really becomes Marilyn. I say right now, because *The Iron Lady* hasn't hit theatres yet. Word is the only way Williams can beat Meryl Streep playing Margaret Thatcher is if Streep decides not to allow herself to be nominated. Are there any surefire bets for you?

MB: Even with Meryl in the race, Williams will win because Hollywood loooooooves Marilyn

Monroe, and Thatcher is an unsympathetic figure to a liberal community. I think George Clooney could be a lock for *The Descendants*. It's the most nuanced work he's ever done, and I think there's a feeling it's time he got that statue for his cumulative body of work. Who else might challenge him?

RC: I think Clooney deserves an Oscar for just being Clooney. He's our generation's Cary Grant and I loved that he didn't rely on his usual charm and likability in *The Descendants*. But how cool would it be if Ryan Gosling gave him a run. He had a

great year with three high profile interesting roles to choose from. Me, I'd give it to him for his brilliant, menacing work in *Drive*.

MB: Brilliant, yes. But he won't win. The movie will be too violent for older academy voters. But I sense a strong contender from the same movie for Best Supporting Actor: Albert Brooks. I love when comedians play bad guys and Brooks was the most memorable baddie of the year.

RC: I would love Albert Brooks to win simply to hear his acceptance speech. If it's anything like his twitter feed it would be hilari-

ous. I would also love to see Hugo have a shot at Best Picture. It's perfect for the Academy. It's a big beautiful movie about the magic of movies. It would be one for the history books; a kid's flick directed by Martin Scorsese as the year's big winner.

MB: The academy is always biased against kid's pictures even if it's one as magical as *Hugo*. Maybe it will be one of those instances where it won't win for Best Picture but Scorsese will take home the Best Direction award. Everyone would have to admit the direction was nothing short of ravishing.

Stars set to shine at Sundance

► Festival films announced, will compete next month

John Krasinski, Helen Hunt, Michael Cera, Amanda Seyfried, Danny Glover and rap star Common are among the stars with movies heading to the Sundance Film Festival.

Films announced Wednesday that will compete for prizes at next month's independent-film showcase include dramas dealing with family crises, such as director Ry Russo-

Young's *Nobody Walks*, with *The Office* co-star Krasinski and Olivia Thirlby; *The End of Love*, starring Cera, Seyfried, Shannyn Sossamon and writer-director Mark Webb; and Sheldon Candis' *Luv*, featuring Glover and Common.

Hunt stars with John Hawkes and William H. Macy in Ben Lewin's *The Surrogate*, an unusual sto-

ry about a 36-year-old man who has spent most of his life on an iron lung and now develops a plan to lose his virginity.

They're among 16 films in Sundance's competition for U.S. dramas, whose past winners included eventual Academy Awards nominees *Winter's Bone*, *Precious* and *Frozen River*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Michael Cera

Scene in brief



Movie website EmpireOnline.com is reporting director Frank Miller's planned remake of *Mad Max* will be a trilogy. Miller is helming the post-apocalyptic *Mad Max: Fury Road*, the first in the planned series. "We started with *Fury Road*, but we then started to do a second story and a third," the website quotes Miller's producing partner Doug Mitchell as saying. The original *Mad Max* starred a young Mel Gibson and hit theatres in 1979 and also spawned two sequels.

METRO



For the latest movie news, features and reviews, scan this code or visit metronews.ca/movies

Finding his balance

Comic Patton Oswalt explores his serious side in *Young Adult*

Funnyman Patton Oswalt says he dug deep for a serious turn in director Jason Reitman's *Up In the Air* follow-up *Young Adult*, spending months with an acting coach to

work out the complex emotional baggage of his physically disabled character.

Raves for Oswalt's performance are already pouring in, with the

stand-up comic set to be honoured Wednesday with an acting award at the Whistler Film Festival.

Young Adult — which hits theatres Dec. 16 — re-

unites the Montreal-born Reitman with his Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody, and stars Oscar-winner Charlize Theron as a morally bereft writer of young adult novels.

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► Patton Oswalt relished the opportunity to take on a different kind of role.

Oswalt, best known as Spence from *The King of Queens*, plays a man whose legs were damaged by a brutal high school beating. The self-described acting "neophyte" admits to having had some qualms about the tricky role.

"Diablo wrote such a good script and such a nuanced script that there were a million ways to steer it in the wrong direction," says Oswalt, whose increasingly diverse credits include HBO Canada's *Bored to Death*, The Movie Network/Movie Central's *United States of Tara* and the Adult Swim series *The Heart, She Holler*.

"Just when I first sat down and read the script I was like, 'Oh boy, I don't want to fumble this.' It's the combination of, 'Oh I'm so thrilled to get offered this,' and 'Oh man, I don't want to mess this up.'"

Oswalt's Matt Freehauf was savagely beaten by jocks as a teen, leaving his legs permanently damaged and forcing him to walk with a brace. Matt serves as a moral compass for Theron's deluded character Mavis Gary, who returns to her hometown looking to relive her glory days and rekindle a romance with her now married ex-boyfriend, played by A Gifted Man's Patrick Wilson.

Oswalt says he consulted an acting coach and a physical therapist to prepare for the role, and thought a lot about Matt's troubled backstory and how that must have

"That's what I was most worried about — that I would kind of fumble some of the transitions between the darkness and then the lightness."

PATTON OSWALT

shaped his upbringing.

"And not just the incident that scars him but what he went through to recover from it, which I think probably shaped his personality and worldview just as much as the damage that the attack did," Oswalt says by phone from Los Angeles.

"I just wanted less and less to have to think about so I could be more present in the scenes with Charlize."

"She's a really instinctual actor and I really didn't want to be sitting there with eight other thoughts on my head while she's just rolling with it."

All that work appears to be paying off.

Several early reviews have singled out Oswalt's performance as a stand-out, with the Whistler prize seen by some as a precursor to a possible Oscar nomination for supporting actor.

"The whole thing just took me by surprise," Oswalt says of the multiple kudos. "It's extremely gratifying and kind of stupefying at the same time, I don't quite know what to think of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hollywood's silent revolution

► There's Oscar buzz over a silent movie for the first time since the 1920s ► Audio changed everything

ANNE BRODIE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Michel Hazanavicius' *The Artist* is one of the season's most acclaimed films – a silent black and white fable about a movie matinee idol who fails to make the cut to talkies in 1927 Hollywood.

French actor Jean Dujardin won the Best Actor Palme D'or at Cannes for his portrayal of George Valentin, in which he brings the best of Gene Kelly and Cary Grant to his own inimitable style. Valentin, a victim of the sound revolution, loses everything he has, but unbeknownst to him, a young actress he befriended secretly keeps an eye out for him. It's reminiscent of

John Gilbert's story.

Gilbert was one of the silent era's greatest film stars whose career reportedly collapsed with the advent of sound, and whose former lover, Greta Garbo, intervened unsuccessfully to restore his image and career. He died of a heart attack at age 36. It was a tragedy with parallels to *The Artist*. In many ways it's a Hollywood fable for adults.

The French cast and crew shot in old Hollywood, often in the exact locations of the story. It looks authentic, as though it was made right then and there in 1927, if not for the modern gloss and crisp, high definition. Dujardin was thrilled to step into Tinseltown's history.

"The story was more beautiful for this. It was thrilling to film in the Orpheum on the actual sites, and was extremely motivating, especially they had talks prior to that that we would be filming in Hungary or Romania. So on top of being able to film in Hollywood, the place is extremely special. It's almost a religion to be in a movie in the street there."

Oscar whispers have been loud and clear since *The Artist* screened at Cannes and Toronto. Dujardin has heard those whispers and is conscious of the love the film has inspired. "It's almost like Michel found the magical formula access code sitting in front of everyone's nose."



► Jean Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo star in *The Artist*.

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Hyland Cinema
240 Wharmcliffe Road South,
519-913-0313

The Guard (14A) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 5:10 Mon 7:20 Tue 5:10 Wed 2:50 Thu 7:20
Into the Arctic: Part II (STC) Fri 9
The Skin I Live In (18A) Fri 2:50 Sat 12:50-9:10 Sun 3:37 Mon 5:10 Tue 12:50-9:10 Wed 6:50 Thu 3
The Way (STC) Fri 12:40-6:50 Sat 3:37 Sun 12:50-7 Mon 12:50-3-9:10 Tue 3:37 Wed 12:40-4:40-9 Thu 12:50-5:10-9:10

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:45-7:15-9:30
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-2:57-10-9:20
Hugo (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:40
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-7:20
The Muppets (G) Fri-Wed 1:20-3:50-6:55-9:25 Thu 3:50-6:55-9:25 Thu 1
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:20-7:05-9:10
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:7-9:35

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building,
A Christmas Story (STC) Fri 12
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05**Wellington 8 Cinemas**
983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529

Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 4:15-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:55
Happy Feet Two (PG) Sat-Sun 1:20
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri 7:9-9:50 Sat-Sun 4:10-7:9-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:9-9:50
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri 6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:35
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:40-

9:45 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40
The Muppets (G) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Puss in Boots (G) Sat-Sun 1:10
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:47-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
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Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 3:50-6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:30-9:10 Mon 6:30-9 Tue 3:50-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6:30-9 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Descendants (14A) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-5:00-6:45-9:30 Mon 6:30-9:15 Tue 3:45-6:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:15
Happy Feet Two (PG) Sat-Sun 1:05
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:6-50-9:20 Mon 6:50-9:20 Tue 4:6-50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon 6:40-9:35 Tue 3:40-6:40-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:35 Fri-Sat 4:50-7:45-10:25 Sun 2:40-7:45-10:25 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 4:45-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10
Immortals (18A) Fri-Sat 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon 7:20-10:10 Tue 4:40-7:20-10:10 Wed 10:10 Thu 7:20-10:10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 4:50-7:40-10:10 Sat 2:7-40-10:10 Sun 2:40-7:40-10:10 Mon 7:30-9:55 Tue 4:50-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:30-9:55
The Muppets (G) Fri 4:10-7:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:50 Mon 7:9-45 Tue 4:10-7:45 Wed-Thu 7:9-45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 4:20-7:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10 Mon 6:45 Tue 4:20-6:45 Wed-Thu 6:45
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30 Sat 12:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 9:30 Mon-Thu 9:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:05 Mon 7:10-10 Tue 4:30-7:10 Wed-Thu 7:10-10 Fri 4:20-7:15 Sat 1:30-7:15 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15 Mon 7:9-45 Tue 4:15-7:45 Wed-Thu 7:9-45
White Christmas (PG) Wed 7

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Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 11:45 Mon 1:45 Tue 11:45 Wed-Thu 1:45
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:20-10 Mon 4:25-7:9-30 Tue 2:10-4:50-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 4:25-7:9-30
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:35 Mon 1:35-4:15-7:10 Tue 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:15-7:10
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05 Mon 1:55 Tue 12:05 Wed-Thu 1:55
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 2:30-5:7-40-10:15 Mon 4:40-7:15-9:45 Tue 2:30-5:7-40-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:45
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10 Mon 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:55-7:8-15:10:50 Mon 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:40 Tue 12:25-3:55-8:15-10:50 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:40
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-5:45-8:10:25 Mon 2:15-4:55-7:30-9:55 Tue 1:10-3:30-5:45-8:10:25 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:30-9:55
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:50 Mon 2:44-5:7-30-10:20 Tue 11:45-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:50 Wed 4:45-7:30-10:20 Thu 2:44-5:7-30-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:20-5:15-7:30-10:05 Mon 2:20-4:35-7:25-9:50 Tue 11:55-2:20-5:15-7:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 2:20-4:35-7:25-9:50
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:20 Sat 12:30-3:10-8:20 Sun 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:20 Mon 1:50-4:25-7:35 Tue 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:20 Wed-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:1-30-2:40-4:15-5:25-7:10-8:10-9:55-10:55 Sat 12:2-40-5:25-5:40-7:10-8:10-9:55-10:55 Sun 12:1-30-2:40-4:15-5:25-7:10-8:10-9:55-10:55 Mon 1:30-2:05-4:20-4:50-7:05-7:40-9:50-10:20 Tue 12:1-30-2:40-4:15-5:25-7:10-8:10-9:55-10:55 Wed 2:05-4:20-4:50-7:05-7:40-9:50-10:20 Thu 1:30-2:05-4:20-4:50-7:05-7:40-9:50-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri-Sun 10:45 Mon 10:10 Tue 10:45 Wed-Thu 10:10

Touch heaven in a Little Hell

► Dallas Green touches on depression, his family in City and Color's new album ► It's his darkest effort yet

HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAM SWEENEY**
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The cover art for City and Color's latest album, Little Hell, may be a colourful illustration of tulips in a Dutch field — but there are much darker themes in the words within.

The indie folk instrumentation is decorated with Dallas Green's lyrics, which largely touch upon the personal aspects of his life. Although his past two albums have also held intimate details of his problems or parts of his relationship, Little Hell has tracks that deal with previously untouched material such as insomnia and depression, and songs such as O' Sister and The Grand Optimist that deal with family issues.

"All of my records are pretty much the same as far as the honesty and lyrics," Green says, "so I think that because this has a few songs on it that deal directly with my family members, people assume it's more personal than the last."

It's hard for listeners not to assume that, with lyrics like: "Does it have something to do with the pills they gave to you?" in O' Sister, which delves into Green's thoughts on his sibling's depression.

For Green, who was formerly the singer for Alexisonfire, his third album as

"All of my records are pretty much the same as far as the honesty and lyrics. So I think that because this has a few songs on it that deal directly with my family members, people assume it's more personal than the last."

DALLAS GREEN ON HIS LATEST ALBUM

► Dallas Green opens up about his family on his new album.

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City and Colour marks a chance to let loose and create music that felt right and reflected his own life.

"I just wanted to make it all about whatever I wanted it to be," he says. "There's a bunch of songs on the record that have a full band, and there's even some louder songs on the record. I didn't want to suppress all those ideas I had just because people have a certain idea of what City and Colour should sound like."

A little heaven with Little Hell

Green has found that getting through instances that are part of his own Little Hell is easier because he is a musician. Even on

the days he wakes up sick or becomes fed up with life on the road, he says performing for his fans is what makes it all worthwhile.

"Sometimes you just don't want to go to work, and today was one of those days where I'm like, 'I don't want to play tonight.' But I know the best part about that is I'll be able to go onstage and it'll all go away. That's the heaven part for me," he says. "The travelling and the sitting in the rainy parking lot with nothing around us ... that's not what I like about being a musician. The getting up and singing the songs, that's my favourite part."

AN ALTERNATIVE YULETIDE

SOUND
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@METRONEWS.CAThere are better
choices than
Winter Wonderland

Chances are your city has at least one radio station that flipped to an all-Christmas format last month. This is a HUGE ratings-getter, especially for those stations that get played in offices and workplaces.

But how many times can a person hear Jose Feliciano sing Feliz Navidad before insanity creeps in? And please, let's not hear any talk of season music from Justin Bieber or Susan Boyle.

So what is a rock fan supposed to do when it comes to Yuletide music? I'm glad you asked.

Black Label Society: Glorious Christmas Songs That Will Make Your Black Label Heart Feel Good. Hail Santa! (out now); Zakk Wylde, one of Ozzy's favourite guitarists, offers up a three-track instrumental EP. O Little Town of Bethlehem never sounded like this before.

Bowling for Soup: Merry Flippin' Christmas Vol. 1 and 2 (out now): These Texas goofballs have updated and expanded their 2009 Xmas EP that includes both classics and, um, soon-to-be classics. Look for it on iTunes.

Bob Halford: Winter



► M. Ward and Zoëy Deschanel, a.k.a. She & Him.

Songs (Out now): Who knew that Judas Priest's leather-clad front dude had such a soft spot for the Yuletide season? On this 2009 release, he's pretty faithful to songs like We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful, but the metal isn't too far in the background.

She & Him: A Very She & Him Christmas (out now): On one hand, Zoëy Deschanel (the "She" in this band) seems to be doing well with her TV series, New Girl. On the other, she and Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard separated last month after two years of marriage. Keep that in mind as you listen to songs like I'll Be Home for Christmas and Blue Christmas.

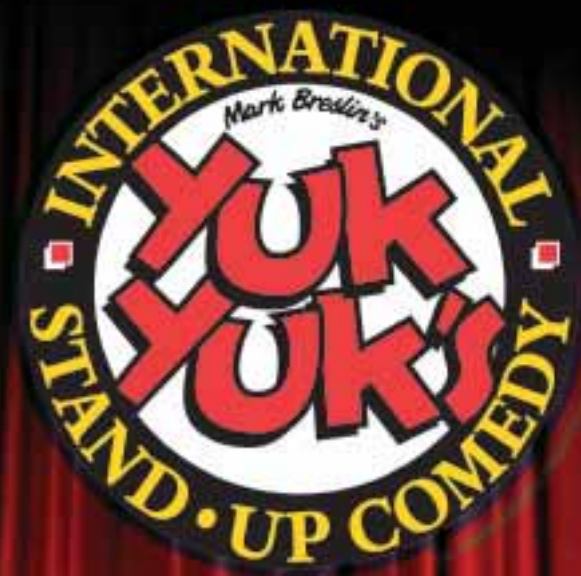
Scott Weiland: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (out now): During an interview we did 18

months ago, the Stone Temple Pilots' singer dropped a bomb (including on his record company people, who were in attendance) that he wanted to release a Christmas record. The album features pretty straight renditions of the classics, often in a jazz style.

Various Artists: Christmas with The Salads & Friends (out Tuesday): One of Canada's best ska-punk party bands twisted some arms and got their friends — including Ill Scarlett and the Johnstones — to contribute to a new Christmas album. All tracks on this digital-only release are previously unreleased.

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Wait, motherhood breeds swagger?

► Fresh off the runway from Tuesday night's television special, Victoria's Secret moms share their thoughts

It's not just the push-up bras or feathered wings that give some top Victoria's Secret models their sexy swagger: It's their off-the-catwalk lives as mothers that give them their confidence and signature curves, they say.

Miranda Kerr, Doutzen Kroes and Alessandra Ambrosio have all been crowned VS Angels, so

they are among the half-dozen models to get the best outfits and most face time during the lingerie giant's televised annual fashion show, which aired Tuesday night on CBS.

Backstage, wearing their short, hot-pink satin robes, they're also the ones attracting the most attention.

What were they talking

about with all those photographers, makeup artists and other models?

Nutrition, exercise and juggling their jet-setting careers with their little ones.

Kroes and Kerr have bona fide babies, both giving birth to sons last January. Ambrosio's daughter was born in 2008.

But motherhood hasn't

slowed them down at all: Kerr even got to wear the coveted diamond-covered bra. "I was asked to do it after I gave birth," said Kerr. "That was awesome. It's such an honour."

Ed Razek, chief marketing officer for Victoria's Secret parent Limited Brands, has long taken the position that the company wants feminine, womanly

models, because that's who looks best in the lingerie.

"It's true, a number of our models have come back from having a baby more beautiful than ever. I know that some of them have used the show date as a goal to get back in shape and, I think, having a baby has given them a sense of confidence, an 'I can do

anything' attitude that is reflected on the runway."

One thing model moms can do is make money.

Forbes ranks Gisele Bündchen, Heidi Klum, Kate Moss, Adriana Lima and Ambrosio — all often photographed with their children — as the top earners of the industry this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Doutzen Kroes

It was empowering to mould her new figure into shape, said Kroes, 27, who did "abs, abs, lots of ab exercises all the time." Her body isn't quite the same now as it was pre-baby, and she hopes it never goes back.

"I wish every woman can feel so sexy after birth. It's your body, but it's also a feeling."

On the surface, her two worlds might not seem like a perfect match, but they are, she said.

"You get your hair and makeup done!"

She also has a lot of control over her schedule. Even if she needs to be on location for a few days, it'll never be longer, and then she'll have many days off, Kroes explained.

"It's not a 9-to-5 job."

She often can bring her son, Phyllon, on set, though she only does that when working locally.

"I don't want him to become a 'traveller' when he is still so young."



AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Miranda Kerr

Pilates, yoga, weight training with resistance bags were all key factors in Kerr's new-mom fitness routine, said the 28-year-old, and they're all things that can be done in her living room.

"I do have less time, but I do try to exercise every day. I exercise at home with my son playing around with his toys on the floor."

She says she hopes

Flynn's watching and that he'll learn to incorporate physical activity into his daily life without a thought. The same goes for a healthy diet. Flynn is too young to watch the Victoria's Secret show now, of course, but Kerr will let him see her runway photos later.

"I'm sure he'll be happy his mom had wings."



AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Alessandra Ambrosio

Her catwalk costumes are a little less risqué now, but she's not ready to hang up the Brazilian-cup bras and short shorts.

"I'm definitely more proud of my body now," she said.

"Our bodies are changed as we get older, and I'm more conscious of it now. Now, I'm a woman doing the show, not a girl."

Part of that is giving up chocolate in the weeks before the show; she didn't always have to do that.

And part of it is being able to walk in heels without teetering. She's also learned to ham it up for the camera and the audience.

Ambrosio got her Angel wings in 2004, when she was the first spokesmodel for the then-new Pink collection, which is loungewear geared for a more youthful customer.

That's when she felt she was "a flirty and cheeky teenager" versus the sexy woman she is at age 30.

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Buy Dunder Mifflin paper products

CASSANDRA GARRISON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

You may not be able to work at The Office, but you can at least buy paper from the fictional company Dunder Mifflin.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reports that NBC's parent company Comcast and the Staples-owned website Quill.com have reached a licensing deal

that will put Dunder Mifflin-brand paper products up for sale on the site.

The product packaging will feature familiar slogans from the show like "Our motto is, 'Quability First'" and "Get Your Scrant on."

Big-box retailers like Staples are often mentioned on the show as Dunder Mifflin's biggest competition. In real-life though, the two companies are now partners,



FLICKR: TOMDOBB

much to the delight of paper-loving Office fans.

According to the WSJ, Dunder Mifflin products are much pricier than pri-

vate-label copy paper, but can you really put a price on the paper that launched Michael Scott to executive fame?

TV Picks**High school sweethearts?**

COMEDY. If you missed Thursday's debut over on Fox, you can catch the new sitcom *I Hate My Teenage Daughter* Friday on Global. The show centres on best friends and single mothers Annie (Jaime Pressly) and Nikki (Katie Finneran), who worry their daughters are turning into exactly the type of cruel girls who bullied them in high

► *I Hate My Teenage Daughter*

school. (Global)

Suspicious behaviour

DRAMA. Kudos to those of

you sticking with *Ringer* despite the erratic highs and lows of this hit-and-miss rookie show. You've shown great loyalty. Let's hope the show rewards us with a bit more story

development and a lot less melodrama. On Friday, Henry realizes he must work with Bridget to learn more about Gemma's disappearance, and Malcolm shares his suspicions about Charlie with the police. (Global)

Comedy classics return

STAND-UP. Comedy legends new and old are all over the dial Saturday. Canada's reigning stand-up king takes the stage in Russell

Peters: The Green Card Tour Live From the O2 Arena over on The Comedy Network. Meanwhile, The Ed Sullivan Comedy Special on PBS features the indelible comic stylings of Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, George Carlin and Richard Pryor.

Holiday help

DESIGN. Get a jump on holiday party planning on Saturday with the help of merry tips from The Party. Samantha Pynn of the show *Pure Design* visits

some of her favourite designers for holiday inspiration. (HGTV)

Great flying pumpkins

SPORTS? Punkin Chunkin is back. Mythbusters hosts Kari Byron, Tory Belleci and Grant Imahara helm the pumpkin-throwing event. Participants build machines, air cannons and catapults to hurl the gourds as far as possible. (Discovery Channel Canada) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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► On Terra Nova, Stephen Lang says he's covering new ground



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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Actor Stephen Lang is getting attention for his work playing a gruff, militaristic leader shepherding a group of humans through a foreign landscape filled with deadly creatures. No, not Avatar.

While Lang's new gig as Commander Taylor on Terra Nova — in which he leads a pilgrimage of humans 85 million years into the past to colonize an alternate earth — might bear some resemblance to the 2009 blockbuster that shot him to fame, he's quick to point out the differences.

And if you want to typecast him, he's fine with that, too.

Were you reluctant to take this part because of similarities people might draw with Avatar?

Obviously, there's a certain similarity in their backgrounds.

I just felt that the trajectory that the characters take is so vastly different, that after a certain break in period you would see Taylor as his own distinct personality, as opposed to being related to Avatar.

Are you at all afraid of typecasting after Avatar and then this role?

You know, I'm 59 years old, and if I'm typed right now, I'm typed as a charismatic, macho, silver fox. So, if that's the case, I can live with that (laughs).

How much of Taylor's back-

story did they let you in on beforehand?

We've discussed backstory from day one on this. Even in our initial meetings we talked about how this guy comes to be, and who he is. Backstory emerges as fact as it becomes necessary. I can give you three possibilities of what Taylor went through in the year 2139. And whatever will serve our story best is the one that we will adopt, because it only becomes fact when it hits the screen, when it gets written in, you know?

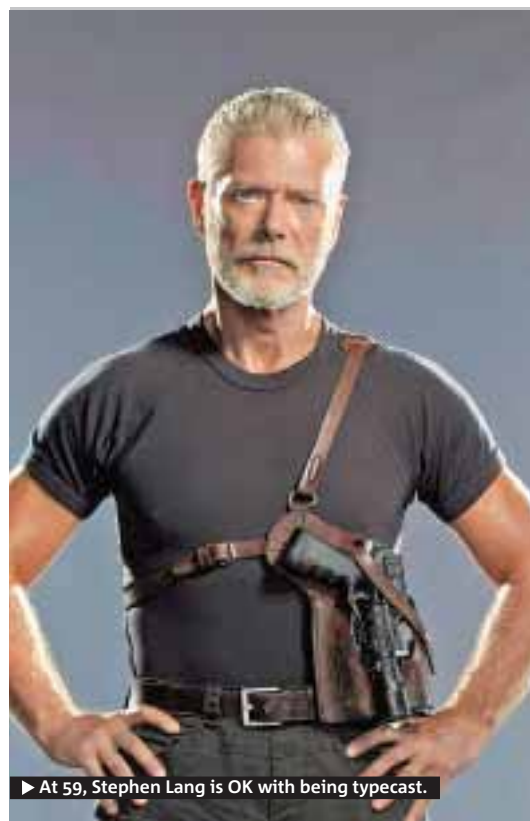
What was your impression when you first saw the pilot episode?

I thought that we were on our — how do you put it? It's a maiden voyage. There's a certain caution that goes with it. There's a certain finding your way,

as the show finds its own sort of tone. I liked it. You see fully-formed characters. It tells a story. I thought the effects worked as well as we wanted them to work. But as in all the work I've ever done, I feel there's room for advancement in it, clearly. And so, you know, it made me proud, but also anxious to do better.

How much does it help with your performance when you're on location, and not on a sound stage as much as you would be on another TV show?

It helps in ways you're probably not even conscious of. I mean, just being out in a pristine environment — that's where you're supposed to be. It's one less artificial element to have to create.



► At 59, Stephen Lang is OK with being typecast.

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► Cory Monteith

Glee hits the right notes



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After a bumpy — and highly criticized — second season, Glee looks to be back on track, and according to series star Cory Monteith, a lot of that has to do with how the show is choosing its music.

What kind of music are they giving you for your character?

Oh, man I'm so excited (looks to his publicist). Can I? No, I can't. There is one song that I cover that is typically like a female vocalized-pop song from the '80s, and it has been pared down into this acoustic-slow-piano wonderful ballad, almost. They have done

some really great stuff with music this season especially. It's really influenced and inspired by the story-lines. Whereas before — last season we did tribute episodes, things like the music was implying the storyline.

Are you saying last season they did a lot of stuff that was more current just because they could?

Right. I feel that in the second season we got the opportunity to do whatever artist we wanted to cover because the show was big, and so, you know, there was a lot of, you know, very expository, very kind of larger-than-life numbers and things. And this year,

they have a very specific idea of where they want the storyline and where they want the characters to go, and then they choose the songs around that. So it is very much the songs are inspired by the storyline this year, which is great because as an actor you have so much to do because of why you're singing it.

There was a lot of talk over the summer about what happens to characters like yours, that are seniors, after they graduate this year. Has that been on your mind at all?

Well, everybody graduates eventually, but I really don't know. We haven't really had that conversation. It's been, you know, discussed that Glee cast members will graduate, but I really don't know when ... If I graduate, you know, then I move on to do other things.

So what was the name of the song you mentioned?

I wish I could talk about the songs, but I think there is a sharpshooter out there just in case we say the wrong thing. (Ed. Note: the song was Girls Just Wanna Have Fun).

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Is Scarlett still in love with Ryan?

► Her post-divorce romance with Sean Penn didn't pan out ► Now she's apparently got a hate-on for her ex's new squeeze — Blake Lively

Even though her marriage to Ryan Reynolds ended last year, Scarlett Johansson is still reportedly preoccupied with his love life — and sources say she absolutely loathes his latest girlfriend, Blake Lively, according to Us Weekly.

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore," a source says. "She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."

Adding insult to injury? The fact that while Johansson's post-divorce romance with Sean Penn fizzled out,

Reynolds and Lively seem to be going strong.

"Things are great [for Blake and Ryan]," says the source.

"They haven't had a fight yet."

● METRO

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore. She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."

SOURCE



► Scarlett Johansson

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



► Beyoncé

Just how old is Beyoncé's bump?

Though it was previously reported that Beyoncé's baby was due in February, some are speculating that she could actually be giving birth as early as this month, according to Hollyscoop.

A recently released behind-the-scenes video shows Bey-

oncé referring to herself as six months pregnant — only the video was shot in September.

"Right now I'm actually shooting the video for Countdown and I'm six months pregnant, pretend-

ing that my stomach is flat in body suits," Beyoncé says in the video. "But thank God you can't really tell from the

front, but when I turn to the side ... oh baby!"

● METRO

Ashton gets back into single life



► Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher appeared to make the most of his newly single status while home in Iowa for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Us Weekly.

The Two and a Half Men star was spotted with his entourage at several bars around Iowa City over the long weekend.

"He was drinking beer, and girls kept coming up to him," says a source of Kutcher's night out on Friday.

"He loved the attention.

Girls were hugging him and shaking his hand."

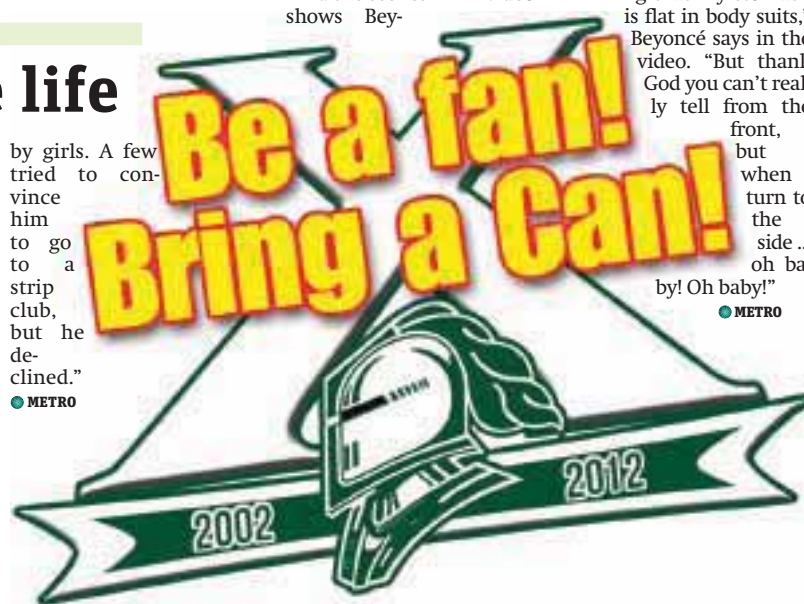
And it continued Saturday, according to another source: "He was swarmed

"He was drinking beer and girls kept coming up to him. He loved the attention. Girls were hugging him and shaking his hand."

SOURCE

by girls. A few tried to convince him to go to a strip club, but he declined."

● METRO



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Brit to wed?

There's been plenty of speculation about when Britney Spears and Jason Trawick might take the next step toward marriage, and it's reportedly going to be very soon.

"They've been talking about marriage for a long time," a source tells People magazine. "It would be surprising if they are not engaged by the end of the year." In fact, the engagement is so close that, according to the source, Trawick has already picked out a ring. ● METRO

Celebrity tweets



Shooting 30 Rock in 212 today. I'm working the streets again...



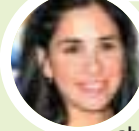
@AlecBaldwin

@rosemcgowan

On my way to a wild animal park! Yippee!

@michaelianblack

How am I supposed to work when there's so much internet?



@SarahKSilverman

Let's get into the Christmas Spirit & lie about how we got pregnant.

3 life

More great tips



1. Decide on whether your dinner is going to be served "family style" or "plated" and make certain that you have the plates and silverware that will be required.
2. Select dishes that allow you to do as much advance preparation as possible.
3. Set the mood by considering music, lighting and table decor.
4. Be responsible and make sure that your guests drink responsibly.

SUPPERWORKS



For great winter-friendly recipes, visit metronews.ca/food or scan this code.

Holiday cheer in a bottle



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

While we like to think we watch our weight with Jennifer Hudson precision, as the weeks creep closer to Christmas, the call of an ice cold glass of cream liqueur gets louder.

I like how the creamier side of booze has found a permanent home snuggled up to the holiday season. Typically sweet with a support system of some sort of spirit, it really is the liquid personification of making merry.

I'm betting most of you will think only of Baileys (\$26.49 - \$30.80) when it comes to a delectable creamer. Famous as it is, the Irish whiskey-based classic has plenty of competition with many modern variations on the theme hitting store shelves.

St-Rémy à la Crème (\$26.99 - \$28.98) is the newest kid on the rack. Made with a soothing base of French brandy, its snow white creaminess drinks with the silky consistency of vanilla ice cream.

Once opened, a cream liquor will last about two years if refrigerated.

That's if the bottle's contents survives until New Year's.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Deck the halls and entertain with ease

► Joni Lien and Chris Wood, founders of Ontario-based business SupperWorks, offer their Top 6 tips to make any dinner party jolly



► Above all, remember to enjoy yourself at the party.

The folks at SupperWorks know a thing or two about entertaining. At their 16 Ontario locations they've been taking the "work out of supper" since 2005 by creating delicious recipes, doing the shopping, the washing, the chopping and the clean-up so that customers can prepare delicious, wholesome meals at home without the time and without any hassle. Don't live in Ontario? No worries. SupperWorks delivers right across Canada.

Here are Lien and Wood's tips to make your party a smash.

Plan ahead

Although it may seem ob-

vious, the top entertainment tip for any dinner party is to plan it out. From menu to dinnerware and beverages, planning translates into a successful dinner party.

Check for allergies

Check with your guests in advance to see if they have any food allergies, likes, dislikes or if they are following a particular diet, and adjust your menu accordingly. You may want to offer a vegetarian and a gluten free option.

Be practical

Design your menu around their preferences and

your kitchen. A main course and two sides that all require heating in the oven at three different temperatures is not practical if you want to get all three dishes on the table at once.

Stick to what you know

Try not to tackle too many new recipes when entertaining. Stick to what you know and do well. If you do want to serve a new recipe, consider picking up an entrée or sides from somewhere like SupperWorks. SupperWorks entrées serve four to six people and are proven winners when it comes to taste and convenience.

Do what restaurants do

Chill your plates for dishes that will be served cold and heat your plates for dishes that will be served hot. It's a small thing but it makes a big impact. Giving your plates 30 minutes in the fridge before serving keeps your cold dishes cold, and giving your plates five minutes in a 350° oven keeps your hot dishes hot.

Enjoy yourself

Remember that a dinner party is a great time for socializing with friends and family, and enjoying the season.

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Leafs' best days still ahead

THE HOCKEY NEWS

ADAM PROTEAU

LONDON@METRONEWS.CA



Walking in to the Maple Leafs practice facility this week, I was struck by something

I've never felt in 10-plus years of covering the team.

I felt the unmistakable air of optimism. I saw players smiling, laughing and horsing around with the media. Sure, there had been a handful of moments like that in the late '90s-early 2000 heyday of Mats Sundin and Curtis Joseph, but this was different. That Leafs team was filled with veterans who knew their window in which to win a Stanley Cup was small and getting smaller by the second. The roster members had pressure to live up to the reputations they'd built before coming to Toronto.

But the 2011-12 Leafs are unlike that experience-laden team in many respects. As components of one of the NHL's youngest squads, these Leafs players are making reputations for themselves, not living up to anything they've done previously. There is no veteran, Sundin-like cornerstone around which to build — and don't try and convince me Phil Kessel and/or Dion Phaneuf is that guy; the for-



► Joffrey Lupul celebrates a goal with Leafs teammate Dion Phaneuf on Nov. 22.

mer is 24 years old and the latter was traded to Toronto because his stock had fallen in Calgary.

No, this is a Leafs core whose best days still are ahead. As Toronto fans are aware every time the Boston Bruins handily defeat the Buds (as they have already on three occasions this season), there are holes yet to fill and lessons to learn, but the patience

management has exhibited since GM Brian Burke arrived three years ago is precisely what was needed after years of quick-fixes and lost gambles — and now, the organization has a degree of talent depth not seen in decades.

Now these Leafs can grow as a unit, learn to win and lose together as all great teams must, and collectively support each

other through individual struggles. Indeed, one of the most heartening elements to their season so far has been the goaltending-by-committee approach that became a necessity after starter James Reimer was sidelined; in past years, net deficiencies always were the chief killer of Leafs seasons, but this time, Jonas Gustavsson and Ben

Scrivens have patched together enough solid performances to keep Toronto from plummeting down the standings.

Such resilience is another element of the current Leafs team that hasn't been there for ages. Maybe that's why Toronto's dressing room was so loose this week. Regardless, it's a long time coming and a welcome change.

4

sports

Quoted



"I'm very proud of the time that I've spent with the Galaxy and it might continue."

DAVID BECKHAM, THE FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN SAID HE HAS A "BIG DECISION TO MAKE" AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY EXPIRES AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO PLAY FOR THE BRITISH TEAM IN THE LONDON OLYMPICS NEXT YEAR.

Win not enough to save Ducks coach



► Ducks fans show their displeasure for head coach Randy Carlyle on Sunday.

The Anaheim Ducks fired coach Randy Carlyle late Wednesday night and hired former Washington coach Bruce Boudreau, who was dismissed by the Capitals just two days earlier.

The Ducks made the abrupt move after beating Montreal 4-1 on Wednesday night for the club's third victory in 19 games, snapping a seven-game skid.

Carlyle coached the Ducks to their only Stanley

Cup title in 2007, but struggled to get his talented club's attention this season. Carlyle agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2013-14 season in August, but Anaheim got off to a perplexing 7-13-4 start.

"Randy is a terrific head coach, and did a tremendous job for us for six-plus seasons," Anaheim general manager Bob Murray said. "We thank him greatly for his hard work and dedication to our franchise, not

the least of which was a Stanley Cup championship. At this time, we simply felt a new voice was needed. Bruce is a proven winner with a great track record, and we are optimistic we can turn this season around under his leadership."

Carlyle has the most coaching wins in Ducks history, and he was behind Anaheim's bench for many of the 1993 expansion franchise's biggest moments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES



► A B.C. Lions fan works the crowd prior to the start of the CFL 99th Grey Cup last Sunday in Vancouver.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce reflects on last Sunday's Grey Cup loss to the Lions in Vancouver.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Wally Buono appears to have coached his last game.



► Steven Jyles will be back with the Argos in 2012.

Gloves already off in CFL off-season

CFL EXTRA POINTS

DAN TOTH

LONDON@METRONEWS.CA



The Canadian Football League's off-season is like a Joe Kapp right cross — unexpected

and dramatic, while packing enough punch to knock a veteran to the floor.

The next few months should be filled with staggering developments as all eight teams start juggling their rosters and running coaches out of town. The ultimate goal is to rebuild and make a run at the 100th Grey Cup next November in Toronto. Hamilton head coach Marcel Bellefeuille has already been sent packing, Winnipeg offensive co-ordinator Jamie Barresi has been booted, Calgary defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones has bolted for Toronto and Montreal offensive co-ordinator Scott Milanovich has reunited with Argos GM Jim Barker. Consider the many other possibilities:

Buono steps aside: Newly crowned Grey Cup champ Wally Buono, who earned his fifth ring as a coach in Sunday's win over Winnipeg, has likely coached his last game.

At 61, Buono appears ready to hand the Lions' reins to a successor (possibly defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides) and watch from the press box. Buono's three-year contract expires in 2013, and when he signed the current deal he made it clear that he would not necessarily perform both roles until the contract expired.

Bombers look to strike first with Pierce: Winnipeg Blue Bombers GM Joe Mack will have his hands full this off-season with about a dozen unsigned free agents, including D-lineman Doug Brown who is expected to retire.

On top of Mack's list is quarterback Buck Pierce, who proved his mettle by avoiding injuries to get his club to the Grey Cup game. Mack also has to be concerned with fielding a team that can fill the new 33,000-seat Winnipeg Stadium that opens in 2012. **Riders' top coaching choice already spoken for:**

"Having Kent Austin back in Regina is a romantic notion for the Riders faithful, but he's a longshot to return."

Kent Austin tops the Christmas Wish List of most Saskatchewan Roughriders fans, but he's unlikely to accept the head coaching job in Regina.

Now head coach at Cornell University, Austin won a Grey Cup with the Riders in 2007 but finds himself a candidate for a head job with a top college and eventually the NFL. Having Austin back in Regina is a romantic notion for the Riders faithful, but he's a longshot to return. GM Brendan Taman is more likely to offer the job to Calgary OC Dave Dickenson, but is Dickenson keen on the Queen City?

Scott jumps to Argos' ship: Has Scott Milanovich lost his mind? Yes, the Montreal Alouettes 2011 offensive coordinator, who took over Toronto's head coaching position Thursday, is old pals with Argos GM Jim Barker.

But Toronto? Talk about going from the penthouse to the outhouse with one stroke of a pen. Making matters worse, Barker has already re-signed QB Steven Jyles, who can't possibly be the starting quarterback next season. **Burris has suitors in Southern Ontario:** Henry Burris, the CFL's Most Outstanding Player in 2010, could have options when it comes to finding a new team next season.

The obvious choice is Toronto, which needs a veteran quarterback like Angelo Mosca needs a good corner man. But Hamilton might also be in the market for a top pivot. Starter Kevin Glenn has been a disappointment in his three seasons in black and gold, even though he guided his team past Montreal in the East semifinal.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE PRO'S CORNER: Tips on How to Pick the Correct Hockey Stick

Hockey sticks come in a variety of lengths, sizes, blade curves, flex, wood, composite...picking the right stick can be overwhelming. Hopefully this will help simplify your next hockey stick purchase.

Stick Size: There are 3 stick sizes

Junior - smaller blade and narrow shaft suited for young players.

Intermediate - medium size blade and a slightly bigger shaft size, a taller stick suited for players grow out of the junior stick, this stick adds more length to the stick but provides a small shaft for players with small hands.

Senior - bigger blade, larger shaft and taller stick suited for players who have outgrown the intermediate stick.

Blade Curve: Younger players should stay away from big curves as this sometimes makes it harder to control the puck when shooting or stick handling. As players develop they may want to pick a curve that suits their style.

Proper Flex: Flex becomes important as players get stronger and are able to use the flex or whip of their stick to enhance shooting and passing. Keep in mind that cutting a stick will reduce your flex, the higher the flex number the stiffer the stick. (eg. 100 flex is stiffer than 85 flex)

Cutting your Stick: A players stick should measure up to the area between their chin and nose, this can be measured by holding the stick upright in front of the player while in their skates or on their tippy toes if in shoes.

Dwayne Blais,
Total Package Hockey

TPH

To Contact Dwayne: (519) 453-8989
dwayne@totalpackagehockey.ca

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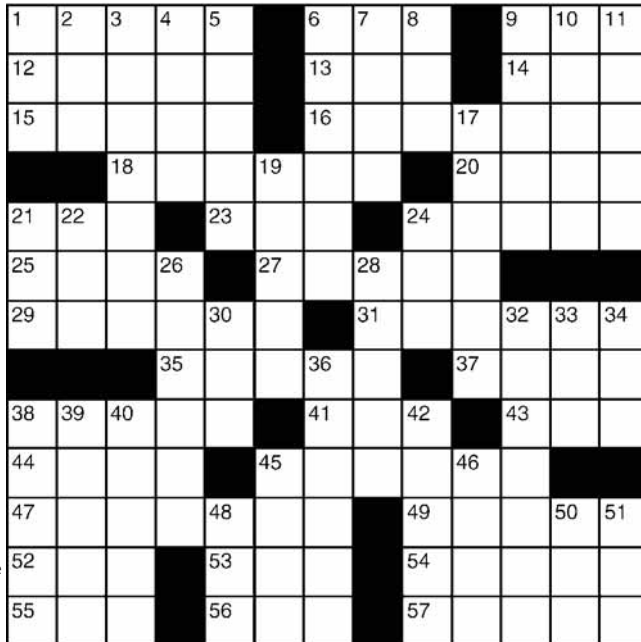
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Crossword

Across

1 Recordings
6 Big bother
9 Scale notes
12 Sudden gush
13 Rawls or Reed
14 Exist
15 Places in the heart
16 Range of understanding
18 Basement
20 Sea eagle
21 Handle
23 Fond du —, Wis.
24 The staff of life
25 Auctioneer's cry
27 Foundation
29 Claim
31 "Rug"
35 Hay machine
37 Wrestling style
38 Separated
41 Angry
43 Scoot
44 Japanese rice wine (Var.)
45 Former Secretary of State
47 Chase
49 Crosses
52 UN workers grp.
53 Retainer
54 Wedding VIP
55 Has the skills
56 Peculiar
57 Busybody



6 Andean beast
7 Gloomy
8 Lord's Prayer
9 Word with savor or laissez
10 Sports venue
11 Emulated Betsy Ross
17 Opposing
19 Tag
21 "Born in the —"
22 The Sun
24 Resume, for short
26 Scattered fragments
28 Malt shop item
30 Roscoe
32 Steal
33 Ostrich's kin
34 A billion years
36 Overacted
38 Jellied entree
39 TV cook Deen
40 Ohio city
42 Bowler
45 Multicolored
46 Traditional tales
48 Venusian vessel?
50 Potent pesticide
51 Vast expanse

Down

1 Airport org.
2 Suitable
3 17th-century composer Henry
4 Great Lake
5 Play for time

► Yesterday's answer



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Some extraordinary things will happen over the next few days. Whether they're good or bad is up to you.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't be afraid to put your own needs first today because they will benefit many other people as well.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you take too many risks, your chances of coming through unscathed will be on the low side.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be a lot more flexible if you want to take advantage of the opportunities that are now coming your way.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 It may be the case that something has not worked out to your full satisfaction but it's really no big deal.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus indicates health, wealth and happiness. Share the lucky streak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Life is going to get tougher over the next few days, but that's OK because you need to be challenged.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Today's Sun-Mars link will make it easy to get angry but, really, what's the point? Let it all wash over you.

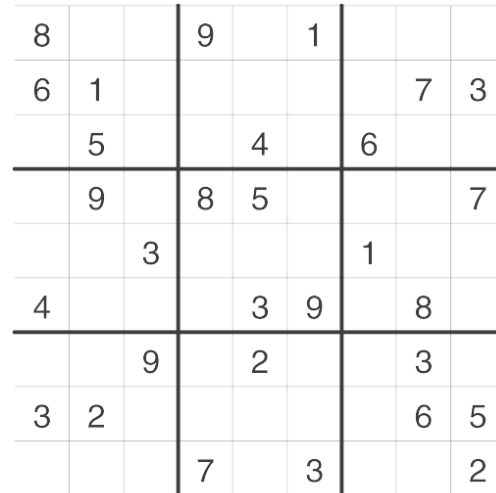
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Today's Sun-Mars union could bring you up against someone who is as domineering as you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You seem to be in a bit of a fix at the moment with no obvious way out. Sit tight for the time being.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you don't listen to a loved one's advice today, the results could be traumatic. You don't know it all!

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 There's no point in getting angry or upset today. Try laughing instead. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

9	3	6	8	2	4	5	1	7
7	4	8	9	1	5	6	3	2
2	1	5	7	6	3	9	8	4
5	7	4	3	8	2	1	6	9
3	6	2	1	7	9	8	4	5
1	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	3
6	9	3	2	5	1	4	7	8
8	5	1	4	3	7	2	9	6
4	2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Cute Stats, All semester the only reason to come to class has been your beautiful face. I've seen you reading the metro some classes. Try looking back on Friday ;)
DELISH STRANGER

Jon, <3 my partner in crime **JEN-NA**

BlueJae hey i just wanted to let you know how pretty you are, school wouldn't be the same without you, every day on my way to school i hope I'm on the same bus so i can sit beside you, also i wanted to tell you i had a lot of fun watching twilight with you on Saturday- if we're reading this together like we do then i think this is where we kiss, so just close your eyes and lean in babe ;) **DECKS**

KOJI SAHARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest



PETER DEJONG/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Cape Elizabeth, Maine – It's 360 degrees of fun and adventure in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. With tons of cargo space and best-in-class fuel efficiency, it's all doing and less fueling for this family.



1. Added boat in the water above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 2. Removed lug nut cover on rear tire of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 3. Changed front wheel reflector in bicycle to orange. 4. Removed seat reflector on bicycle. 5. Added stripe to purple helmet. 6. Changed colour of flowers behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 7. Removed support bar above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 8. Changed colour of bag in the trunk of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 9. Moved the position of the white boat. 10. Removed tint from the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox window.



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